

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: : Before the Examiner:
F. Bauchot et al. :
Serial No: : Group Art Unit:
Filed: : Intellectual Property
Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM : Law Department
IN AN ELECTRONIC SPREADSHEET : International Business
FOR MANAGING AND HANDLING : Machines Corporation
USER-DEFINED OPTIONS : 11400 Burnet Road
: Internal Zip 4054
Date: April 19, 2001 : Austin, Texas 78758

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D. C. 20231.

Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. A method of processing user defined boolean variables in a multi dimensional spreadsheet (200) comprising a plurality of cells identified by a cell address along each dimension, said method comprising the steps of:

- defining one or a plurality of boolean variables in a table (400);
- referencing said one or plurality of boolean variables in one or a plurality of cells;
- activating one or plurality of boolean variables in said table (400);

- determining the content of said cell or plurality of cells depending on whether said one or plurality of boolean variables are activated or not in said table.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein said step of defining one or a plurality of boolean variables in a table, comprises the further steps of:

for each defined boolean variable:

- assigning a name (311) and storing in the table (400) said name (403);
- selecting a status value (303) depending on whether the boolean variable is activated or not and storing in the table said status value (404) .

3. The method according to claim 1 wherein said step of activating one or plurality of boolean variables in said table, comprises the further step of:

- updating in the table the status value (304, 404) of the one or plurality of activated boolean variables.

4. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of determining the content of said cell or plurality of cells depending on whether said one or plurality of boolean variables are activated or not, comprises the further step of:

- determining, referring to the table (400), whether the one or the plurality of boolean variables referenced in the cell or plurality of cells are activated or not;

- computing the value of said cell or plurality of cells according to the value of said one or plurality of activated boolean variables.

5. The method according to claim 1 comprising the further step of:

- changing in the table (400) the name (311) of one or a plurality of boolean variables.

6. The method according to claim 1 wherein said step of selecting a status value (303) depending on whether the boolean variable is activated or not comprises the further steps of:

- setting the status value of the boolean variable to "true" if said boolean variable is activated, and
- setting the status value of the boolean variables to "false" if said boolean variable is not activated.

7. The method according to claim 1 comprising the further step of:

- setting the value of the boolean variable to one when the status value is "true", or
- setting the value of the boolean variable to zero when the status value is "false".

8. The method according to claim 1 wherein said steps of assigning a name, changing the name, selecting a status value, updating the status value are executed by means of an interactive user interface.

9. The method according to claim 1 wherein said interactive user interface comprises a dialog box (300) displayed on a screen (106) of a computer system (100).

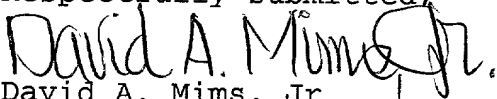
10. A system (100) comprising means adapted for carrying out the method according to claim 1.

11. A computer program comprising computer readable instructions adapted for carrying out the method according to claim 1.

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this French patent application. Applicants have amended Claims 2-11 to eliminate the multiply dependent claims. Applicants have not added any additional claims to the application. The Examiner is asked to consider Claims 1-11 in view of the above amendments.

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIN THE CLAIMS:

2. (Amended) The method according to [the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein said step of defining one or a plurality of boolean variables in a table, comprises the further steps of:

for each defined boolean variable:

- assigning a name (311) and storing in the table (400) said name (403);
- selecting a status value (303) depending on whether the boolean variable is activated or not and storing in the table said status value (404) .

3. (Amended) The method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein said step of activating one or plurality of boolean variables in said table, comprises the further step of:

- updating in the table the status value (304, 404) of the one or plurality of activated boolean variables.

4. (Amended) The method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the step of determining the content of said cell or plurality of cells depending on whether said one or plurality of boolean variables are activated or not, comprises the further step of:

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- determining, referring to the table (400), whether the one or the plurality of boolean variables referenced in the cell or plurality of cells are activated or not;
- computing the value of said cell or plurality of cells according to the value of said one or plurality of activated boolean variables.

5. (Amended) The method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 comprising the further step of:

- changing in the table (400) the name (311) of one or a plurality of boolean variables.

6. (Amended) The method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein said step of selecting a status value (303) depending on whether the boolean variable is activated or not comprises the further steps of:

- setting the status value of the boolean variable to "true" if said boolean variable is activated, and
- setting the status value of the boolean variables to "false" if said boolean variable is not activated.

7. (Amended) The method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 comprising the further step of:

- setting the value of the boolean variable to one when the status value is "true", or
- setting the value of the boolean variable to zero when the status value is "false".

8. (Amended) The method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein said steps of assigning a name, changing the name, selecting a status value, updating the status value are executed by means of an interactive user interface.

9. (Amended) The method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein said interactive user interface comprises a dialog box (300) displayed on a screen (106) of a computer system (100).

10. (Amended) A system (100) comprising means adapted for carrying out the method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1.

11. (Amended) A computer program comprising computer readable instructions adapted for carrying out the method according to [claims] claim 1 [to 9].